

**ABSTRACT**

5           A composition comprising the tannate of an opioid. Suitable opioids include  
alfentanil, buprenorphine, butorphanol, carfentanil, cocaine, codeine, dezocine,  
diacetylmorphine, dihydrocodeine, dihydromorphine, diphenoxylate, diprenorphine,  
etorphine, fentanyl, heroin, hydrocodone, hydromorphone,  $\beta$ -hydroxy-3-  
methyلفentanyl, levo- $\alpha$ -acetylmethadol, levorphanol, lofentanil, meperidine,  
10 methadone, morphine, nalbuphine, nalmefene, o-methylnaltrexone, naloxone,  
naltrexone, oxycodone, oxymorphone, pentazocine, pethidine, propoxyphene,  
remifentanil, sufentanil, tilidine and tramadol. The opioid tannate may be readily  
prepared by reacting an opioid free base with tannic acid, either neat or in the  
presence of up to about 30 wt.% water, at a temperature of about 60 to about 150°C  
15 and thereafter recovering the resultant opioid tannate. The opioid tannate may also be  
prepared by an alternative process that involves reacting the opioid free base with  
water at a temperature such that not more than about 10 wt.% of the opioid tannate  
will be decomposed and thereafter removing the water by freeze-drying.

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